

# COMMON HERPS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

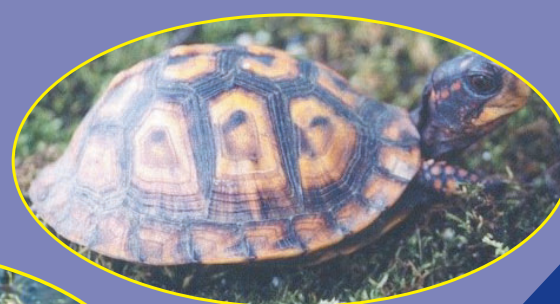
## Turtles

(Order Testudines)

Painted Turtle, *Chrysemys picta*



Eastern Box Turtle, *Terrapene carolina*



Snapping Turtle, *Chelydra serpentina*



Dusky Salamander, *Desmognathus fuscus*



Northern Two-lined Salamander, *Eurycea bislineata*



Eastern Red-backed Salamander, *Plethodon cinereus*



Red Salamander, *Pseudotriton ruber*



Spotted Salamander, *Ambystoma maculatum*



Common (Eastern) Garter Snake: *Thamnophis sirtalis*



Northern Ringneck Snake, *Diadophis punctatus*



Northern Rat Snake, *Elaphe obsoleta*



Rough Green Snake, *Opheodrys aestivus*



Five-lined Skink, *Eumeces fasciatus*

Common herps? "Herps" comes from herpetology—the scientific study of reptiles and amphibians, and this poster shows the most commonly found species in Montgomery County. You can often find the real thing near streams, lakes, ponds, and wetlands—and some may be found in your own backyard or garden!

While in these habitats, keep your ears open and listen for the differing, often melodic calls of the frogs. And keep your eyes wide open as you look under rocks, fallen branches, logs, and leaves to see if you can find any of the turtles, frogs, toads, salamanders, lizards, snakes, and skinks. Amphibians and reptiles are cold-blooded vertebrates (having a backbone), but they actually have a lot of important differences.

Amphibians, such as frogs, toads, and salamanders, have smooth skin and generally hatch as aquatic larvae with gills. As these animals grow into adults, they develop lungs and are then capable of living in both land and water.

Reptiles, such as snakes, turtles, and lizards, have scales or horny plates. They never have gills, but use lungs to breathe, and most lay eggs. These animals are very important indicators of the ecological health of where we live, work, and play. Some species return every year to the same vernal pool to reproduce, and some are very long-lived. Many amphibians are sensitive to different chemical pollutants that enter their water habitat.

Most of all, each and every one is interesting to study and enjoy in their natural environment.



Green Frog, *Rana clamitans*



Bullfrog, *Rana catesbeiana*



American Toad, *Bufo americanus*



Spring Peeper, *Pseudacris crucifer*



Wood Frog, *Rana sylvatica*

Salamanders  
(Order Caudata)

Frogs & Toads  
(Order Anura)

## Snakes & Skinks

(Suborder Squamata)

(family Scincidae)



Watershed Management Division  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Montgomery County, Maryland

For more information,  
visit our Herps webpage at:

askDEP.com